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JACKSON

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WASHINGTON (AP) -- PRESIDENT REAGAN IS EXPECTED TO NAME A CAREER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, JOHN MCMAHON, TO REPLACE ADM. BOBBY R. INMAN AS DEPUTY CIA DIRECTOR, ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID SUNDAY.

SOURCES WHO ASKED NOT TO BE IDENTIFIED SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF REAGAN'S CHOICE OF MCMAHON, A 31-YEAR VETERAN OF THE AGENCY, COULD COME AS EARLY AS MONDAY.

FIRST WORD THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE CAME FROM SEN. HENRY JACKSON, D-WASH., A MEMBER OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE. JACKSON SAID ON CBS-TV'S ''FACE THE NATION'' THAT A VETERAN CAREER OFFICIAL WOULD BE NAMED.

MCMAHON, 52, IS NOW THE NO. 3 MAN IN THE CIA, HOLDING THE POST OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. PREVIOUSLY, HE HAD RUN THE AGENCY'S NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENTS CENTER, WHICH PRODUCES INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES FOR GOVERNMENT, DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, HE WAS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, IN CHARGE OF THE AGENCY'S CLANDESTINE SPY NETWORK.

MCMAHON ALSO HAS EXPERIENCE IN THE CIA'S ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION AND IN ITS SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL DIVISION.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY SOURCES SAY MCMAHON IS A TOP-NOTCH ADMINISTRATOR WITH A BROAD RANGE OF EXPERIENCE IN THE INTELLIGENCE BUSINESS. ONE SOURCE SAID THERE HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN A DEPUTY DIRECTOR WITH AS BROAD A RANGE OF BACKGROUND AS MCMAHON. THIS SOURCE SAID HIS SELECTION WOULD ''GIVE A TREMENDOUS BOOST TO AGENTS IN THE FIELD.''

TRADITIONALLY, ONE OF THE TWO TOP JOBS IN THE CIA HAS GONE TO A MILITARY OFFICER BUT THAT HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE. WHEN VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH HEADED THE CIA DURING THE FORD ADMINISTRATION, HIS DEPUTY WAS A CAREER CIA MAN RATHER THAN A MILITARY OFFICER.

AS RECENTLY AS FRIDAY, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED THAT A SUCCESSOR FOR INMAN, WHOSE RESIGNATION WAS ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY, WAS A WEEK TO 10 DAYS AWAY. SEVERAL OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT JACKSON'S REMARKS, SAYING THEY TOO THOUGHT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS NOT THAT IMMINENT.

SEN. RICHARD LUGAR, ONE OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S STRONGEST SUPPORTERS, SAID FRIDAY THAT THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE WANTED A ROLE IN PICKING A SUCCESSOR TO INMAN, WHO HAS BEEN VERY POPULAR WITH THE COMMITTEE.

''I'M FRANKLY TRYING TO ENGENDER A DIALOGUE AND SEND SOME SIGNALS'' TO THE WHITE HOUSE, THE INDIANA REPUBLICAN TOLD REPORTERS. ''THIS IS A TRAUMATIC OCCASION AND I SAY THAT ADVISEDLY.''

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